

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00722 181344Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 /091 W

-----190350Z 108741 /20

R 181020Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5223

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM GTUYI

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0722

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE DAY 1977

1. JOSHUA NKOMO, SPEAKING TO THE PRESS IN LUSAKA ON ZIMBABWE DAY MARCH 17, URGED RHODESIANS OF ALL COLORS TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST WHITE MINORITY RULE. NKOMO DENIED SOCIALIST INSPIRATION OF THE NATIONALISTS CAUSE, CHARACTERISING SUCH ACCUSATIONS AS NONSENSE. HE CALLED ON THE WEST TO OFFER HELP IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE INSTEAD OF GRUMBLING ABOUT THE NATIONALISTS BEING PUPPETS TO EASTERN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS ADVISED TO DROP THE IDEA OF RESTARTING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE; IT IS DEAD AND BURIED. WHAT IS NEEDED FROM BRITAIN IS A CONCRETE PROPOSAL NOT WAVERING SUGGESTIONS. NKOMO ALSO DESCRIBED ALLEGATIONS THAT ZAPU WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF FIFTEEN RHODESIAN STUDENTS AS A LIE.

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00722 181344Z

2. IN ITS EDITORIAL MARCH 18 THE DAILY MAIL CAST DOUBTS ON THE UTILITY OF U.K. AND U.S. EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE GENEVA TALKS. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S PROSPECTIVE TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS SEEN AS USELESS EXCEPT TO INTRODUCE OWN TO THE MAIN FIGURES OF THE WAR AND AS A BUYING TIME EXERCISE FOR THE BRITISH, WHITE SETTLERS AND VORSTER. THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY THE

NATIONALISTS AS TOOLS OF EASTERN COUNTRIES IS BEING MOUNTED  
TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE ASSISTANCE THE NATIONALISTS ARE RECEIVING  
FROM EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES. THE WEST WOULD BE BETTER SERVED  
IF IT ACCEPTED NKOMO'S CHALLENGE (PARA 1) AND PROVIDED MATERIAL  
ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONALISTS TO BRING TO AN END THE RHODESIAN  
PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL. WHILE THE NATIONALISTS SHOULD NOT CLOSE  
THE DOOR ON TALKS, THEY SHOULD REMEMBER THAT IT IS SMITH'S  
TACTICS TO WEAR DOWN THEIR WILL TO FIGHT BY TALKS. THE PF NEEDS  
AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR AS THE ONLY WAY TO CONVINCING SMITH  
HE CAN'T WIN. "LET THOSE WHO WANT TO TALK, TALK. BUT LET THE  
WAR GO FULL BLAST BOTH IN THE BUSH AND IN THE CITIES. ULTIMATE  
VICTORY LIES IN THE BARREL OF A GUN."  
LOW

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES, NATIONALISTS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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